

12 May 2002
3495 Castleton Hill
Lexington, KY 40517

Dr. Thomas S. Szasz
Professor Emeritus
Department of Psychiatry
Upstate Medical Center
State University of New York
Syracuse, NY 13210

Dear Dr. Szasz,
Ever since you published *The Myth of Mental Illness* I have been one of your most dedicated advocates and supporters, as well as ardent admirers.

I am and was an experimental psychologist by profession, but over a 50 year career I have worked as a clinical psychologist, an industrial psychologist, a forensic psychologist, a military psychologist, and I taught at the university level for 20 years before retiring in 1988. I am an APA Fellow a long standing and also a Fellow of CSICOP — Paul Kurtz's skeptical group — and after retiring I became very active in the skeptical cause, publishing 6 books trying to bring a bit of common sense and reason into the silly business of supernatural beliefs. Over the years I have also been championing your causes.

One of my more recent books, published in 1996, was titled *Mind Games* (Prometheus Books) and I am convinced you will agree with every statement in it since it is a frontal assault on the "therapeutic state" and the "pseudoscience of psychiatry."

Though I did not dedicate the book to you, I should have since it endorses and supports just about everything you have worked for over the years. I cite and recommend all of your work and amplify and extend your attacks on psychiatric and clinical psychological fraud. Unfortunately very few people bothered to read it even though it did receive one or two supportive reviews. I have enclosed one that I feel captures the spirit of the book exactly. Like too many of your books, it too was either overlooked or panned by the medical journals. Of my 25 books it has had the fewest sales, even though it was well received by a few radio, TV, and Internet reviewers. Incredibly, *Dendron* thus far has failed to review or even acknowledge its existence even though I praise their work in my pages.

Other than this being a fan letter, I did want to assure you that as one of CSICOP's 25 most noted skeptics of the 20th Century, not all of us have bought into the psychiatric hoax. As of now, I will wager you have never heard of either me or *Mind Games* despite its strong support for your beliefs and writings. Prometheus gave the book only token publicity, Perhaps because, as you say, most of the skeptics buy into the psychiatric hoax. I have never had the opportunity to discuss your work with Paul but I hope and assume that he, at least, endorses your views. At least he has published a few of your books.

At the moment I am personally a victim of the medical establishment's stupid position with regard to painkillers. Because of three botched spinal surgery operations for a herniated disc in 2000 and 2001, I have been in constant pain. Neurologists tell me my condition is inoperable and I am forced to depend on Roxicodone and OxyContin, but they are totally incapable of stopping my pain and I suffer most of the time. Any suggestions you may have in this regard would be deeply appreciated. I don't blame the pain specialists, the FDA has them over a barrel.

Currently I am reviewing your latest book, *Liberation By Oppression*, and I will send you a copy of the review if the editor doesn't. I find myself cheering aloud after just about every page. I hope that your words will have some impact on the reinforced steel citadel that currently protects the therapeutic state. Though I despair at times, my rage at the arrogance and stupidity of these rapists wearing the mantle of science keeps me going.

Finally, Dr. Szasz, the reasons why so many skeptics support psychiatry are, first, they are largely ignorant of the "mental health" industry, and second, the alternative of New Age sewage and supernaturalism makes them run to what, to them, appears to be "scientific" since the psychiatric claims to be "medical," "brain-based," and "science-based" appear reasonable. Not knowing any different, the skeptics honestly believe what the psychiatrists are currently doing is "scientific," and they imagine themselves to be on science's side, of course. They fail to realize that what the shrinks are doing is anything but scientific!

With deepest respect and admiration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert A. Baker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" and last name "Baker" clearly legible, and "A." as a small middle initial.

Robert A. Baker, PhD
Professor Emeritus in Psychology
University of Kentucky, Lexington